

~~SECRET~~

INCREASED VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT IN GUATEMALA

An outbreak of Communist terrorism on 16 January has caused the Guatemalan Government to declare a 30-day "state of alarm."

The commander of the US military group and the chief of the navy section were killed and two other members of the group were wounded in one attack. Elsewhere in the city, Communist terrorists attacked the homes of two high-ranking Guatemalan officers in charge of the government's clandestine anti-Communist terrorist squads, and a rightist politician, Manuel Villacorta Vielmann.

The Communist Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) have claimed responsibility for the murder of the two US officials and has said that the shooting was to avenge murders by clandestine right-wing organizations. Their leaflet reiterates the FAR propaganda thesis that "Yankee imperialists"

are the real enemy and that the US military are the intellectual authors of the Guatemalan Government's counterinsurgency effort. Members of the military mission as well as other US Embassy personnel have been threatened and followed by Communist terrorists in the past, and in February 1965 the chief of the US Army mission was fired on.

Minister of Defense Colonel Arriaga has personally taken over the investigation of the attack on US officers. Arriaga plans to react forcibly and in kind to the Communist terror.

25X1
25X1

Although security officials have voiced confidence in their ability to maintain order, there is a distinct danger that the desire for vengeance on both sides will result in increased violence.

25X1

25X1
25X1

* * *

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

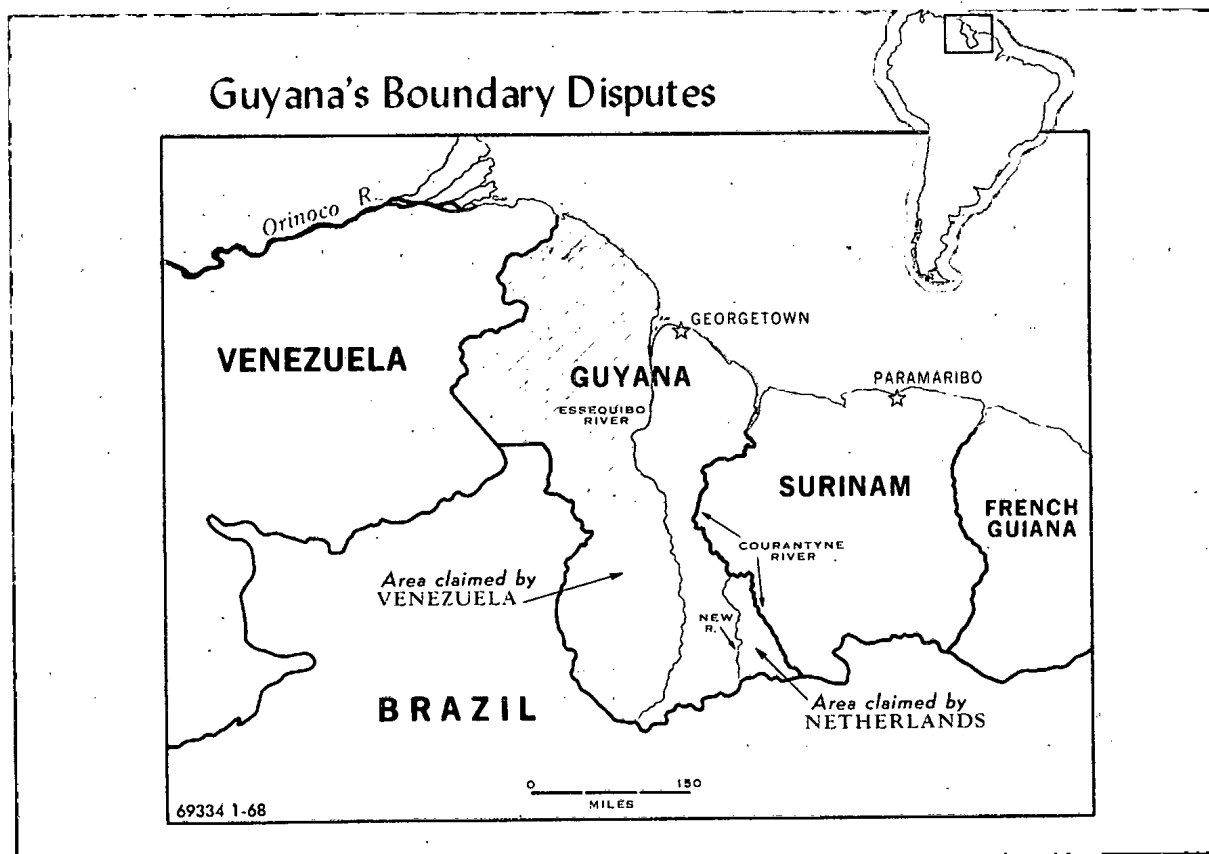
GUYANA-SURINAM BORDER TROUBLES FLARE UP

Provocative statements by Surinam's Minister-President Johan Pengel regarding his country's long-standing boundary dispute with Guyana are increasing tension between the two countries.

A 1916 agreement states that the boundary should be the Courantyne River, but the river's exact location was never established in the jungle area south of its confluence with the New River.

The issue had been quiescent for some time but it flared

up again last month when the Guyanese police removed from "Guyanese territory" five Surinamers who were conducting hydrographic studies of the disputed New River. The ouster came shortly after Pengel's recent diplomatic visit to Caracas, which may have looked to Guyana like a demonstration of support for Venezuela's claims to a large part of Guyanese territory. Guyana may have wanted to underscore its claims of "established presence" in the area, but probably had no intention of touching off another time-consuming and politically sensitive boundary problem.



SECRET

SECRET

Pengel's reaction was vigorous. He stated that "the Dutch will guarantee the integrity of Surinam's territory, and, if necessary, armed force will have to be used." On 12 January, he quietly sent a small group of civilian workers back to the disputed area. He also announced that all Guyanese would have to leave Surinam "within a period to be set by the government," and that he would ask for volunteers with military training, presumably to go to the disputed area.

Publicly, the Guyanese have responded with moderation, but they have decided to increase air surveillance over the area. As soon as possible, they plan to send in supplies and a platoon of the Guyana Defense Force to augment the detachment of 14 police and 24 soldiers already there.

Two members of Surinam's leftist revolutionary party arrived in Georgetown to consult with Guyana's pro-Communist opposition leader Cheddi Jagan on the border issue. Jagan would probably like to exploit

the issue by suggesting that the government is not acting strongly enough to protect Guyana's interests. He does not want to antagonize Surinam's left, however, and therefore has fallen in with Burnham's call for diplomatic talks to resolve the problem. The Surinam leftists are hoping to involve the Tri-Continental Conference organization in Cuba, and reportedly have requested that it convene a meeting of the political and economic committee to discuss the issue.

Despite their hard words, the Surinamers have left room for diplomatic maneuvering, and no major military action is likely. The Dutch blame Guyana for the initial escalation but want the dispute settled peacefully, preferably by direct negotiations between Surinam and Guyana. The Dutch forces in Surinam have been instructed to stay clear of the dispute and, except for provoking a scuffle at the border, little can be done by the Surinamers. The British officers who lead the Guyanese are also unlikely to get involved.

25X1
25X1

* * *

SECRET